

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

RESOLUTION NO. 94-103
RECOMMENDING THAT THE STATE BOARD ELEVATE SB 2004 RANKING
GATEWAY PARK - CITY OF SAN MATEO
SAN MATEO COUNTY

WHEREAS,


1. The City of San Mateo obtained possession of the former Olympic Oil station at 901 E. Third Avenue, San Mateo on July 18, 1988 as one of seven parcels assembled to develop an affordable housing and public park project. The site is currently a public park (See Figure 1).
2. An initial site assessment performed at the site found that the underground storage tanks still existed and were leaking petroleum hydrocarbons into the subsurface soils and groundwater. Free phase gasoline (TPH-g) and benzene (1,300 ppb), toluene (430 ppb), ethylbenzene (4,500 ppb), and xylene (9,800 ppb) have been detected in the groundwater underlying the site (See Figure 2).
3. The site is located in an environmentally sensitive area, directly adjacent to San Mateo Creek. The creek has been identified as a steelhead spawning stream and hosts a number of fish species and fish-eating birds. Existing beneficial uses as outlined within the Basin Plan include wildlife habitat, fish migration, and groundwater recharge. Potential beneficial uses include warm fresh water habitat, water contact recreation, and navigation. Hydraulic studies have demonstrated that a probable hydraulic connection exists between the groundwater and the creek, thus a potential for contaminants to impact the creek and its inhabitants via groundwater discharge as likely. The groundwater underlying the site has been designated as a potential drinking water source.
4. The City of San Mateo has removed the underground storage tanks and completed full characterization of the site but is unable to fund the remedial actions necessary (estimated at approximately \$700,000) without diverting limited funds from other needed programs.
5. There is currently litigation between the city and the former property owners and operator's over the cost of delineation and cleanup of the contamination at the site. The court appointed a Special Master, William Nagle, to the case. As part of the settlement, and to ensure timely and effective cleanup, the city has agreed to take the lead for the cleanup of the site with the understanding that they would be reimbursed by the State SB 2004 fund. The city is

currently ranked number 977 in the D category SB 2004 ranking (claim #3110). In addition, the site is bounded by East Third Ave., for which the City has scheduled construction activities. The contamination extends under East Third Ave. and therefore must be cleaned up prior to, or in conjunction with the city's construction of the East Third Avenue bridge scheduled to begin in early 1995. By integrating the cleanup activities for the site with the City's planned construction activities, a savings to the SB 2004 fund may be possible.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Bay Regional Water Control Board:

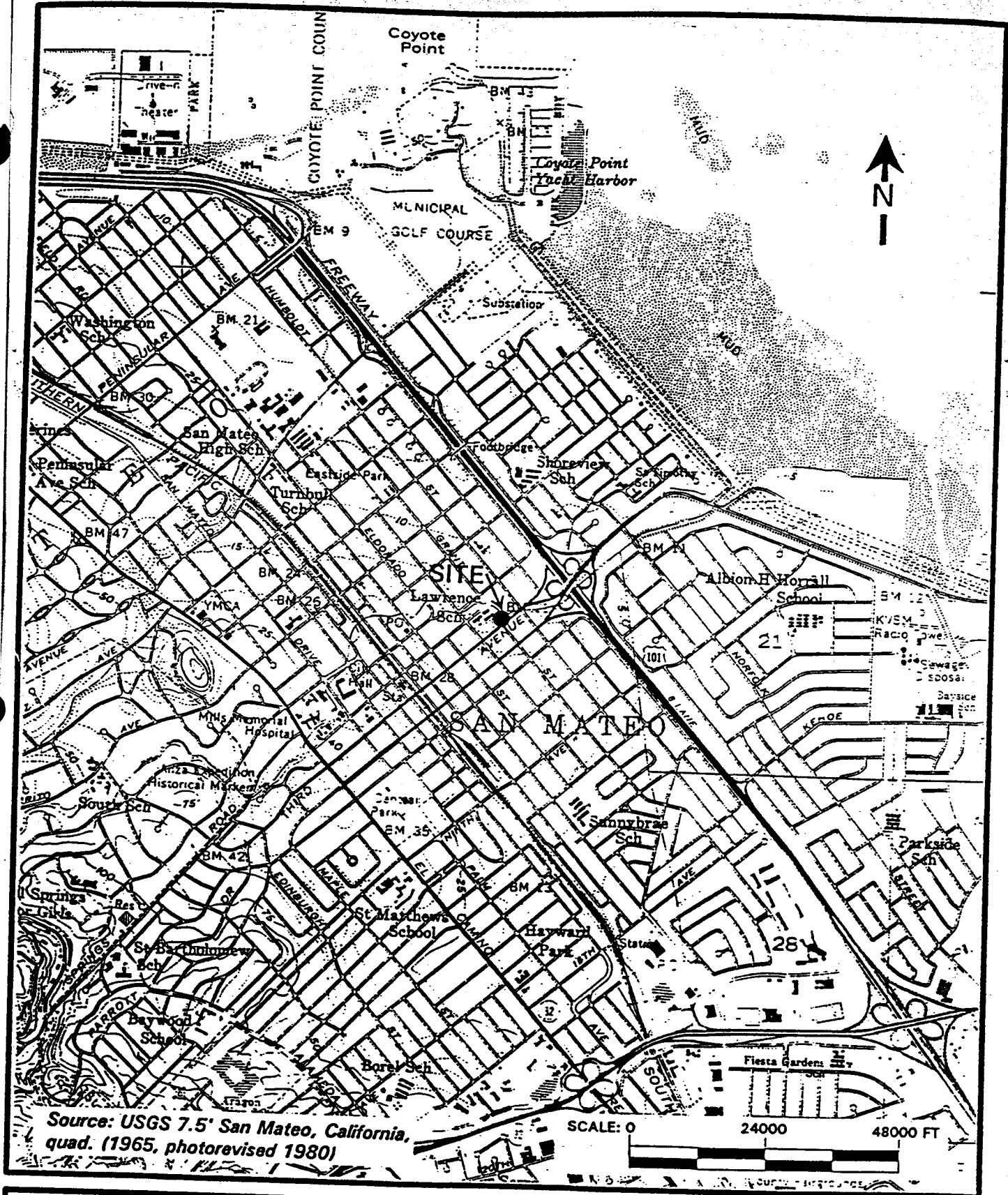
1. Requests that the State Water Resources Control Board consider the elevation of the City of San Mateo's claim #3110 within Category D in order to elevate the claim ranking to allow for immediate reimbursement as made available by the provisions of the Costa Bill (SB 108) which sets aside up 15% of the annual allocation to category D. Based on the merits of this complex project which include environmental concerns of both groundwater and an open waterway in a public park, the resolution of a complex lawsuit involving multiple responsible parties, the readiness of the project to move forward to completion, the timing and financial burdens to the City of San Mateo, and the resultant benefit to the people of the State, and
2. Directs the Executive Officer to take all necessary actions to bring forth this request to the State Water Resources Control Board for favorable actions with regard to the elevation of City of San Mateo's SB 2004 claim.

I, Steven R. Ritchie, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region, on August 17, 1994.



Steven R. Ritchie
Executive Officer

Attachment: Figures



**EINARSON
GEOSCIENCE, INC.**

**SOIL AND GROUNDWATER INVESTIGATION
GATEWAY PARK
SAN MATEO, CALIFORNIA**

SITE LOCATION MAP

FIGURE

1

**PROJECT NO.
KEL 102**

Note: Shaded Area Shows
Approximate Exten
of Soil Contamina

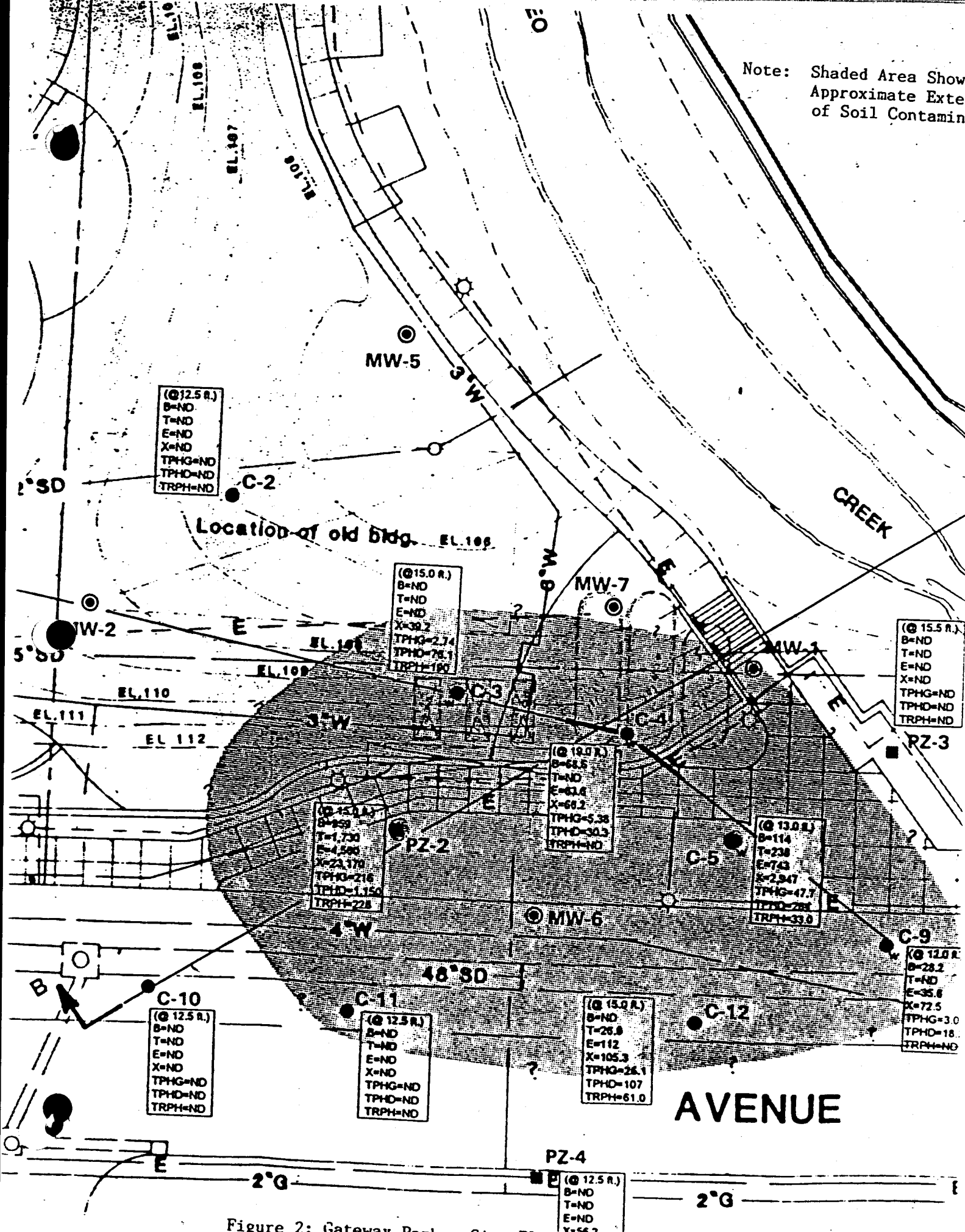


Figure 2: Gateway Park - Site Plan